

Patent Amendment

In the Specification:

Please amend as follows:

The paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 6:

AI

This application discloses subject matter related to the subject matter disclosed in the following co-assigned patent applications: (1) "Clock Distribution Scheme in a Signaling Server," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No. 09/541,002 now U.S. Patent No. 6,643,671 issued 11/01/2003 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0008), in the name(s) of: Val Teodorescu; (2) "Card Design Having Tape and Disk Drives," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No. 09/539,759 now U.S. Patent No. 6,636,917 issued 10/21/2003 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0004), in the name(s) of: Ignacio Linares and Serge Fourcand; (3) "Bus Control Module for a Multi-Stage Clock Distribution Scheme in a Signaling Server," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No. 09/540,591 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0005), in the name(s) of: Serge Fourcand, Curt McKinley, and Val Teodorescu; and (4) "Bus Control Module with System Slot Functionality in a Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect Bus System," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No 09/540,594 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0006), in the name(s) of: Serge Fourcand, Curt McKinley, and Val Teodorescu.

AB

The paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 1:

In yet another aspect, the present invention is directed to an alarm collection method using a multi-stage clock distribution system in a signaling server organized in a plurality of racks, wherein each rack includes a plurality of shelves. The multi-stage clock distribution system includes an STG, at least one CDM, and a plurality of BCMs. Upon determining the size of the signaling server system by ascertaining the number of racks, the CDMs are assigned levels in a nested hierarchy. When only one rack is provided, a single-level CDM hierarchy is present and, accordingly, an R-Level is assigned to the CDMs connected to the STG. If the signaling server system comprises between 2 and 8 racks, inclusive, the nested hierarchy is provided with two levels of CDMs. The CDMs connected to the STG are assigned L-Level and the CDMs coupled to the L-Level CDMs are assigned R-Level. If more than 8 racks are included in the system, a three-level nested hierarchy of the CDMs is provided: C-Level CDMs coupled to the STG, L-Level CDMs coupled to the C-Level CDMs, and R-Level CDMs coupled to the L-Level CDMs. Ultimately, the BCMs are coupled to the R-Level CDMs in this multi-stage distribution system. Without having to use hardwired strapping options, unique IDs are assigned to the

Patent Amendment

A5
cont

shelves wherein the ID includes a redundancy Plane code, a Group code, a Rack code for a rack within a particular Group of racks, and a Shelf code for a shelf within a particular rack. The STG generates a framed serial control signal containing unique shelf ID information and CDM level information in order to control the alarm multiplexing process. Each BCM generates a status signal encoded with alarm data which is successively multiplexed towards the STG through the nested hierarchy of CDMs into a serial bitstream having multiple frames. The CDMs assign predetermined time slots to the received alarm data based on control and ID information provided in the framed serial control signal.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY